

Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church

PO Box 843 Granby, CO 80446

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Ministers: All God's People

Pastor: Brian Bergum

LOTV Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, March 19, 2023 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Announcements

Gathering

Leader: We worship as we live: in the name of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Leader: God calls us to be honest with ourselves, with God and each other, as God renews us and our life's purposes. Come apart from the busyness of family, school and work, and dwell in the presence of God, the source and ground of our being.

All: We come in praise of God and in affirmation of Jesus Christ as the truth and center of our lives. We celebrate the places where love is found, and we give thanks for the gift of new life.

Leader: O God, the struggles of relationships, the pressure of making ends meet or of keeping up with our peers, the fear of losing, our health, our job, our home, the ones we love, over time dry up our lives, and then take the very breath from our being.

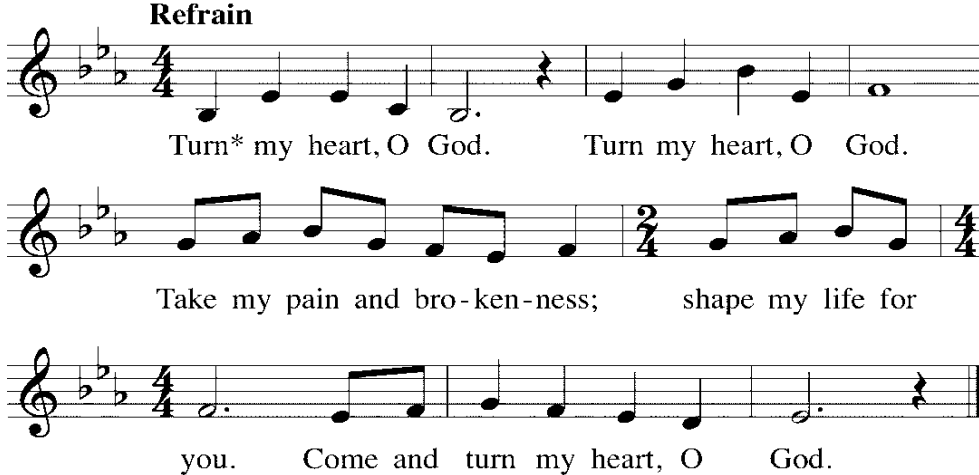
All: Raise us up O God. Breathe your Spirit into our dry bones. Call us out of the tombs we have created in our lives, that we might embrace and celebrate the gift of life you have given us this very day. Amen

Leader: Sisters and Brothers: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation. As we move through this season of Lent we acknowledge our need for repentance; that is, our need to re-focus and re-prioritize our lives, our need to turn our lives back toward God and our neighbors. Let us continue our Lenten journey by together confessing our sins and seeking the forgiveness and new life that is promised to us in Christ Jesus.

“Turn My Heart O God”


The Congregation sings the refrain along with the verse response.

Refrain



Turn* my heart, O God. Turn my heart, O God.
Take my pain and bro-ken-ness; shape my life for
you. Come and turn my heart, O God.

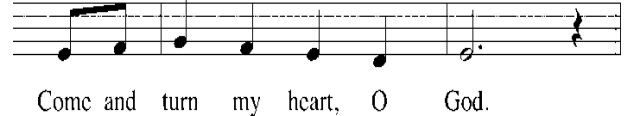
From all the leads to death to seek the way of life ...
From all that leads to sin, to holiness and grace...
From all despair and grief, to hope of life renewed...



Come and turn my heart, O God.

(Refrain)

O let your Spirit come, and cleanse my inmost heart...
Give back to me the joy of walking in your way...
O fill me with your grace that I might sing your praise...



Come and turn my heart, O God.

(Refrain)

Leader: God of Love and Life,

All: We confess that we have sinned against you and each other, by what we have done and said, and by what we have failed to do and say. We confess that we are wounded, and those wounds affect how we treat ourselves and how we treat others. We come seeking forgiveness and healing. We come seeking a sense of wholeness in our lives. Help us to forgive the people who have wounded us, as we come seeking forgiveness for the wounds we have caused other people. Have mercy on us, O God. Help us to live differently. Help us to forgive graciously. Help us to love abundantly. Amen

Leader: God is faithful, even when we are not. God's promises are true, even when we break our promises. Our lives change but one thing does not change: God has loved you, loves you now, and will love you always. And it is in and through this love that in Jesus Christ God forgives you of all your sins. This is the good news that brings us new life.

All: Amen – Thanks be to God!

Song of Praise:

"Arise, Shine Out!"



1. A - rise, shine out, your light has come! A -
2. A - rise, shine out, come and re - joice! The
3. A - rise, shine out, and dry your tears! Our
4. A - rise, shine out, bring bread and wine! Come
5. A - rise, shine out, tell all the land that



wak - en your sad and wea - ry eyes! A
mu - sic of life sings of the new day! The
God has con - quered gloom and fright! For
gath - er a - round the ta - ble of dreams! And
ha - tred and vio - lence now shall cease! To -



song in the dis - tance has be - gun, the
dance of the spir - it; free - dom's voice, is
on this day new dawn ap - pears; be
share the sto - ry, let it shine, for
geth - er in hope and hand in hand, we'll



ci - ty of God born from the skies! _____
mov - ing with - in to guide our way! _____
born a - gain! Walk in the light! _____
in this place God's King - dom sings! _____
live God's mer - cy, love and peace! _____

Leader: The Lord is with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ,

All: and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Bible Readings

1 Samuel 16: 1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the LORD said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said,

'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Ephesians 5: 8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
 'Sleeper, awake!
 Rise from the dead,
 and Christ will shine on you.'

Gospel Verse "Return to God"

Congregation:

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and

Optional Repeat

mer-cy; Come, seek the ten-der faith-ful-ness of God.

Gospel Reading

John 9: 1-41

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called

Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Spiritual Blindness

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

Song

“Christ, Be Our Light”



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of God's People

Leader: Merciful God,
All: receive our prayer.

Offering

Offering Response (sung)

For your generous providing, which sustains us all our days,
For your Spirit here residing, we proclaim our heartfelt praise.
In the depths of joy and sorrow, though the road be smooth or rough,
Fearless, we can face tomorrow for your grace will be enough.

'Round your table, through your giving, show us how to live and pray
Till your kingdom's way of living is the bread we share each day;
Bread for us and for our neighbor; bread for body, mind and soul,
Bread of heav'n and human labor – broken bread that makes us whole.

Leader: All good gifts around us come from you, O God

All: You have given us new life in Christ! Therefore we offer our gifts that we may be gifts to one another. Amen

Leader: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

All: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Leader: Eternal God, who has created the heavens and the earth ... With all the prophets of old and new, the saints and sinner, and all the company of heaven, we glorify your name and join in the endless song of all creation:

Refrain

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name, in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Refrain

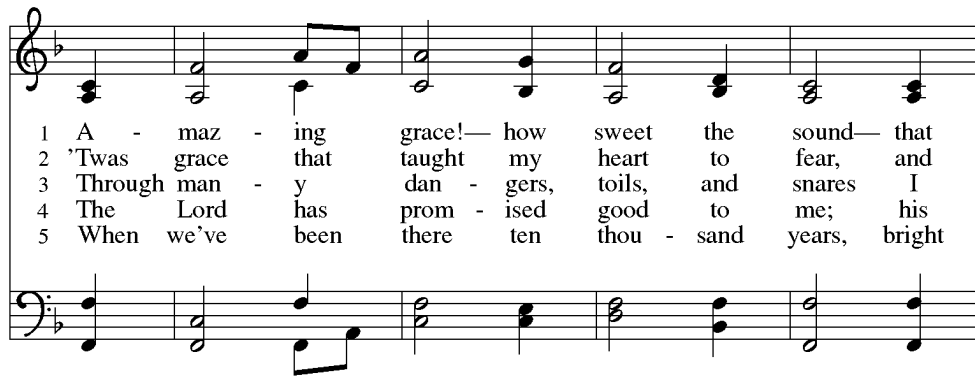
Leader: Lord, remember us in your love and teach us to pray.

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

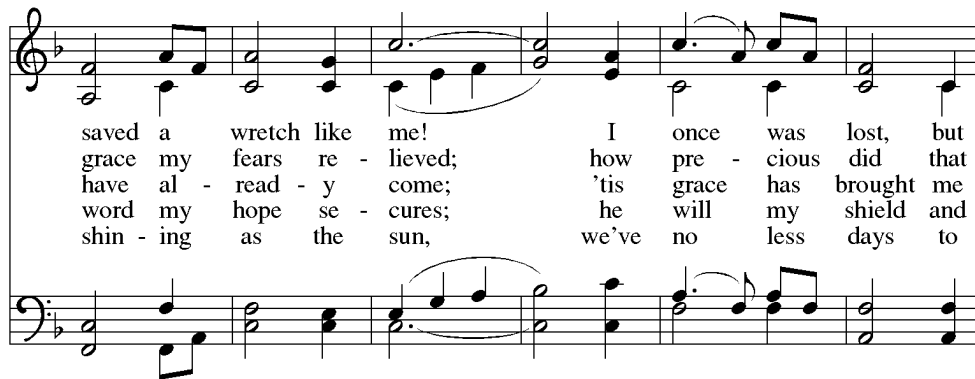
Distribution of Holy Communion

We invite all who come in faith to the Lord's Table as we celebrate Holy Communion in our worship today. For those who prefer, grape juice and gluten free wafers are available, let the server know as you approach. Those not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Song During Communion "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Leader: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in his grace. **All: Amen**

Leader: Life-giving God, in this meal you have bound us to yourself, at this table we have received the very presence of Jesus Christ. Send us now to be what we have received, that all creation might know your love and sing your praise now and always. **All: Amen**

Benediction / Sending

Leader: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!!!

"Turn My Heart" Words and Music by Marty Haugen. GIA Publishing. **"Arise, Shine Out!"** Words and Music by David Haas. GIA Publishing.
"Return to God" Traditional text, music by Marty Haugen GIA Publishing. **"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"** Traditional text adapted by Ray Makeever.
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